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Letter dated 23 April 2008 from the Chargé d'affaires a.i. of the Permanent Mission of the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

I have the honour to forward herewith a letter dated 21 April 2008 from the President of the Republic of Macedonia, Branko Crvenkovski, addressed to you (see annex).

I should be grateful if you would have the present letter and its annex circulated as a document of the General Assembly, under agenda item 120, and of the Security Council.

(*Signed*) Tania **Dinevska**
Chargé d'affaires a.i.

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Annex to the letter dated 23 April 2008 from the Chargé d'affaires a.i. of the Permanent Mission of the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

21 April 2008

Taking into consideration the process taking place under your auspices in accordance with Security Council resolutions 817 (1993) and 845 (1993) and the Interim Accord of 1995, I would like to take this opportunity to inform you about the following:

Notwithstanding the entirely absurd nature of the issue, the Republic of Macedonia has been participating actively, constructively and with great commitment, in the process taking place under the auspices of the United Nations, with the mediation of your Personal Envoy, Ambassador Matthew Nimetz. Thus, the Republic of Macedonia consistently honours the international obligations it has assumed, confirming furthermore its constructiveness in respect of most of the proposals, making also a number of concessions throughout this multi-year process.

Unfortunately, the other party has not demonstrated the same commitment towards the assumed obligations, as has been confirmed by the recent flagrant violation of article 11 of the Interim Accord. According to article 11 of the above-mentioned document, the Hellenic Republic is legally bound "not to object to the application by or the membership of the Party of the Second Part in international, multilateral and regional organizations and institutions of which the Party of the First Part is a member; however, the Party of the First Part reserves the right to object to any membership referred to above if and to the extent the Party of the Second Part is to be referred to in such organization or institution differently than in paragraph 2 of United Nations Security Council resolution 817 (1993)".

In spite of such an assumed obligation, at the NATO Summit in Bucharest, from 2 to 4 April 2008, the Hellenic Republic objected to our invitation to NATO membership, conditioning the membership invitation on the prior reaching of a mutually acceptable solution on the difference regarding the name of the Republic of Macedonia, by which it directly violated the above-mentioned article.

This gross breach of obligations by the Hellenic Republic under the Interim Accord, and the consequent violation of one of the fundamental principles of international law — *pacta sunt servanda* — threaten and substantively undermine the process agreed under article 5 of the Interim Accord, as well as the principles of the Charter of the United Nations. Furthermore, the Republic of Macedonia deems that such conduct on the part of the Hellenic Republic can produce far-reaching destabilizing consequences in the region of South-East Europe.

In this respect, I should like to inform you that we have most strongly protested with the Hellenic Republic against the serious infringement of article 11 of the Interim Accord, underlining at the same time the possible ensuing consequences.

I should be grateful if the Security Council members and United Nations Member States were informed about the content of this letter.

Branko **Crvenkovski**